

House Leaders Push for Vote Next Week on Pro-Nixon Vietnam Resolution; Senate War Hearing Delayed

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 5 — The House leadership set out today to isolate the dove minority in the House by pushing through a resolution next week endorsing President Nixon's Vietnam policy.

In the Senate, meanwhile, the Foreign Relations Committee delayed its confrontation with the Administration by postponing public hearings on the war. Senator J. W. Fulbright of Arkansas, the committee chairman, explained that the committee "didn't want to do anything at this stage that might be interpreted as antagonistic; avoid.

we want to be responsible and careful."

For an Administration that has been seeking a demonstration of national unity behind its Vietnam policy, the moves in the House and the Senate were hopeful developments.

But each move carried the seeds of future difficulty for the Administration in its Vietnam policy.

House Debate Possible

The resolution being pushed through the House may provoke a divisive debate and vote on the House floor, which the leadership and the Administration have been attempting to avoid.

By delaying the hearings, doves on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee felt that they would be able to stage a more deliberate, concerted examination of Administration policy when the confrontation finally comes, probably in December.

In what Representative Benjamin S. Rosenthal of Queens, a Democratic dove, characterized as a "steamroller operation," the House Foreign Affairs Committee will meet tomorrow to consider a resolution introduced yesterday by 50 Democrats and 50 Republicans. The resolution endorses the President's "efforts to ne-

gotiate a just peace in Vietnam."

A committee notice to the members explained that the executive meeting was being called "at the specific request of the House leadership"—an unusual action. Normally the Democratic and Republican House leaders do not join in formally requesting a committee meeting on a specific resolution.

Leaders' Strategy

The apparent strategy of the House leadership was to have the committee approve the resolution tomorrow and then to bring it up for House passage next week.

Speaker John W. McCormack made it clear today that he favored the resolution and that he would bring it up for floor action as soon as it had been cleared by the Foreign Affairs and Rules Committees.

The resolution would be the first formal action on the Vietnam issue by either the Foreign Affairs Committee or the House since the Gulf of Tonkin resolution was passed in 1964, authorizing the President to take all necessary steps to repel aggression in Southeast Asia.

Democratic doves here privately protested what they feel may amount to another Gulf of Tonkin resolution without

even hearings by the committee.

The bipartisan resolution, written principally by Representative Jim Wright, Democrat of Texas, endorses the diplomatic moves made by President Nixon to end the war.

With White House support, Representative Paul J. Dindley, Republican of Illinois, will have tomorrow to enlarge the resolution to support the President's "expressed determination" to withdraw American combat forces "at the earliest practical date."

Ten Democratic doves, led by Donald M. Fraser of Minnesota and Abner J. Mikva of

Illinois, announced today that they would introduce Monday a resolution calling for systematic withdrawal of all United Forces in Vietnam on "an orderly and fixed schedule."

A statement issued by the group said the President, in his Vietnam speech Monday night, "picked up a fallen standard and proclaimed Nixon's war."

Antiwar demonstrations scheduled for Nov. 13 to 15, and the widespread concern within Congress that they might take a violent turn with a resulting public backlash against Vietnam critics, were an important factor in the Foreign Relations Committee's decision

to delay public hearings. "We didn't want to contribute to the inflation of the public mind," Senator Fulbright explained to reporters. "These are very difficult times."

Instead of starting with public hearings, the committee decided to begin with closed-door testimony from Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird during the week of Nov. 17 — after the demonstrations.

On the basis of that secret testimony, according to Senator Fulbright, the committee will decide how to proceed with public hearings.